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GENERAL CONFERENCE

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Agenda item 15
(GC(42)/20)

STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM AND APPLICATION OF THE MODEL PROTOCOL

Resolution adopted on 25 September 1998 during the 10th plenary meeting

The General Conference,

(a) Recalling resolution GC(41)/RES/16,

(b) Convinced that the Agency's safeguards can promote greater confidence among States and thus contribute to strengthening their collective security,

(c) Considering the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, the Treaty establishing the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and the Agency's essential role in applying safeguards in accordance with the relevant articles of these treaties, and noting the outcome of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

(d) Noting that decisions adopted by the Board of Governors aimed at further strengthening the effectiveness of Agency safeguards should be supported and implemented and that the Agency's capability to detect undeclared nuclear activities should be increased,

(e) Stressing the importance of the Model Additional Protocol approved on 15 May 1997 by the Board of Governors aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system,

(f) Welcoming the fact that, as of 24 September 1998, 32 States and other Parties to safeguards agreements have signed additional protocols, 7 of which have entered into force or are being provisionally applied pending entry into force, and

(g) Stressing that the strengthening of the safeguards system should not entail any decrease in the resources available for technical assistance and co-operation and that it should be compatible with the Agency's function of encouraging and assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses and with adequate technology transfer,

1. Requests the Secretariat to pursue the implementation of Part 1 measures of Programme 93+2 as well as the additional protocols without delay as far as available resources permit;

2. Requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to conceptualize and develop an integrated and cost-effective safeguards system;

3. Recalls the need for all concerned States and other Parties to safeguards agreements with the Agency to supply the Agency with all the information required under Part 1 of Programme 93+2;

4. Stresses the need for effective safeguards in order to prevent the use of nuclear energy for prohibited purposes in contravention of safeguards agreements, and underlines the vital importance of effective safeguards for facilitating co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

5. Affirms that strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system with a view to detecting undeclared nuclear activities must be implemented rapidly and universally by all concerned States and other Parties in compliance with their respective international commitments;

6. Supports the Board's decision to request the Director General to use the Model Additional Protocol as the standard for additional protocols that are to be concluded by States and other Parties to comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency, which should contain all of the measures in the Model Additional Protocol;

7. Supports the Board's decision to request the Director General to negotiate additional protocols or other legally binding agreements with nuclear-weapon States incorporating those measures provided for in the Model Additional Protocol that each nuclear-weapon State has identified as capable of contributing to the non-proliferation and efficiency aims of the Protocol, when implemented with regard to that State, and as consistent with that State's obligations under Article 1 of the NPT;

8. Supports the Board's decision to request the Director General to negotiate additional protocols with other States that are prepared to accept measures provided for in the Model Additional Protocol in pursuance of safeguards effectiveness and efficiency objectives;

9. Requests all concerned States and other Parties to safeguards agreements which have not yet done so to sign additional protocols promptly;

10. Requests States and other Parties to safeguards agreements having signed additional protocols to ratify or accept them as soon as possible; and

11. Requests the Director General to report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Conference at its forty-third regular session.